FEBRUARY 8, 1984

Re.



Prof Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister for Finance delivering the Convocation Address at the Rani Durgawati Vishwavidyalaya Jabalpur

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Qualifications

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H-Desirable. Working knowledge of Americans a manuments and its one

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UNIVERSITY NEWS

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Opinions expressed in the articles and reviews are individuals and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Association

Editor

MS RAMAMURTHY

Reading is a Pleasure. Make it a Habit.

Eversince UNESCO declared 1972 as the International Book Year, a World Book Fair has been organised in New Delhi every alternate year Each successive World Book Fair has attracted greater attention than the preceding one

The Sixth New Delhi World Book Fair which is being organised from February 4-14, 1984 at the well laid out, eye-pleasing Pragati Maidan at New Delhi, is spanning 20,000 sq mtrs of space spread over the Hall of Nations and several Halls in the Hall of Industries 510 participants including 69 overseas participants from 30 countries of the world, will vie with one another in displaying over 5 lakhs of Indian and language publications. The Rs 12-crore grant which the University Grants Commission is reported to have released to the Universities has come in only timely. A special feature would be a collective display of over 8600 Indian books along with nearly 1000 books received from different countries.

The Book Fair however is no longer a mere Fair where books will be displayed for people to buy or browse It will hum with activity providing an opportunity for various sections of society like authors, publishers printers, distributors, binders, etc to meet, discuss in formal groups and exchange experiences and ideas informally on matters of professional interest. For example, the National Book Trust. India is organising an international seminar on "Development of Book Binding Techniques". This seminar has attracted a large number of delegates from various countries including UNESCO. At a special show being organised, China will be demonstrating its traditional craftsmanship in binding. India too has a tradition in book binding. Today, speed, quality and consistency are the hallmarks of binding done as a machine-oriented activity.

The National Book Trust is organising a Rural Writers' convention. The Federation of Indian Publishers will be organising a seminar on "Financial Management in Publishing House" and a seminar on "Successful publishing in 1984". The All India Federation of Master Printers is organising a discussion on "New Print Technology Is it Economically Viable?" The Association of Writers and Illustrators of Children Books is organising a seminar on "Children's Literature". The Authors Guild of India will be organising a convention. The All India Type Founders' Federation would be organising a seminar. In addition there would be some memorial lectures and presentation of awards. The range and sweep of activity is only indicative of what publishing is today and some of its concerns.

India has a very rich tradition in oral learning. Today India is one of the top ranking countries of the world as far as publishing is concerned. What about the future? Shri PV Narasimha Rao, the External Affairs Minister, pointed out while inaugurating the Book Fair on 3rd February, 1984. "If it is not the old stone it will have to be the new chip (micro-processor). The change over is inevitable." But both he and Smt. Sheila Kaul, Union Minister for Education and Culture, who presided over the inaugural function, opined that the new technology now available for information storage and processing would be complementary to the written word.

If the 100 school students who marched from Janpath to Pragati Maidan at the time of the inauguration of the Sixth New Delhi World Book Fair to promote book mindedness is any indication of the future "A good book is a good friend" is something which many and many more are going to discover in the years to come

-Editor

UGC's Central Universities Panel Report

In the last three issues of University News, parts of the summary of the main observations and recommendations contained in the UGC's Central Universities Panel Report were given. In this issue we are giving highlights from the third part of the report which was carried in our last issue. The fourth and final instalment of the summary is also given

- While considering other measures for efficient academic and administrative functioning of universities the committee recommended a regular ment promotion scheme. It has also recommended to the committee appointed to review the scales of pay of teachers to consider provision of selection grade under certain conditions.
- The UGC has been requested to work a 10-year plan for providing housing to teachers
- The needs of the non-teaching staff would also be taken into account in the scheme of housing and medical facilities
- The pay scales for the non-teaching staff should be taken up after the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission become available
- The terms and conditions of service of employees would be recommended by a Council of Central Universities for the approval of the Central Government
- A scheme of training be introduced for nonteaching staff
- The functioning and the quantum and quantity of academic and research work should be reviewed by the UGC and evaluated at an interval of 5 years
- Separate development plans should be prepared for Central Universities
- A clearer enunciation of university authority in relation to (i) academic standards, (ii) finance, (iii) law and order, and (iv) social responsibility is required
- The provision of Court in the Central Universities be deleted
- The principle of election to any of the authorities of the university is unacceptable to the committee
- The Executive Council should be a compact body and should be homogenous. The membership of the Executive Council may consist of some ex-officio academics from the university, nominees of the Visitor/UGC, a nominee of the Chancellor and, in the case of affiliating universities, some Principals of colleges. The membership may not normally exceed 13
- Two consultative committees be set up, one for issues and matters connected with teachers and the other for non-teaching staff

- Student participation should be in the Academic Council and in the Consultative Committees to be set up at the faculty and departmental level
- The Academic Council should be the principal academic organ of the university
- There should be separate Boards of Studies for undergraduate and postgraduate studies
- A Planning and Evaluation (Monitoring) Board may be set up
- Five broad functions of the proposed Council of Central Universities have also been spelt out

The last instalment follows

4.18 The Committee is of the view that it is neither necessary nor desirable to have a separate police for the University Campus However it has observed that "there is a strange hangover of the colonial period when politics of freedom was combatted with the help of the police force that university 'autonomy' is supposed to be violated if the police is called in We believe that the police is a part of civil law and order machinery, and it should be as much available to protect life, property and functioning of the university as is available to any other establishment in the country If the university is working normally or within defined bounds of tension naturally there is no need for the police, but if it becomes disturbed by exceeding certain limits, as suggested above, the blame, if any, for causing the police to come in for protection would squarely lie with those who created the particular conditions The autonomy of the university has no relation to this circumstance just as the fundamental rights or privacy of a citizen are not related to his having to take police assistance in an emergency

While we are on the subject of protecting life, property and self-regulated functioning of the university and the necessity of calling in the police in case these are threatened, we would also like to say that it is equally the duty of the police to protect life and limb as well as the property of public institutions. We have mentioned circumstances earlier when the Vice-Chancellor and other university authorities are in no position to make specific requests for police assistance. In such cases, the initiative has to be taken by the law and order machinery of the district We are also inclined to make a suggestion that this arm of the law and order machinery should be properly trained and oriented to handle such situations with due caution and finesse, but also with firmness. Half-hearted presence of the police sometime can be counter-productive as experience has shown "

4 19 The Committee is not in favour of setting up a Central University Security Force like the Industrial Security Force, but has suggested that the universities should streamline their watch and ward arrangement The persons engaged for this purpose should

be declared as part of essential services and enjoy all the privileges and responsibilities which go with it It would be better that instead of permanent watch and ward staff, the universities should assign this work to an outside agency such as ex-army mens organizations who undertake such work

4 20 The Committee finds that Delhi University under its present Act is a teaching-cum-affiliating University and unless the Parliament modifies the Act, University and the Colleges must work within the framework of the law

The Committee has expressed concern that if reasonable academic standards have to be maintained by Delhi University, it is necessary to decentralise its administration particularly in relation to the colleges in support of this, it has observed as follows

"It has been brought to our notice that Delhi University suffers to a large extent from administrative problems of its own making Any small problem arising in a College is referred to the University and it is expected that all decisions in such matters are ultimately to be taken by the Vice-Chancellor. This situation has grown over the years owing to demand from teachers studends and the Karan character of a large number of colleges that in all matters concerning their welfare the final responsibility should te that of the Vice-Chancellor—a position that we reg et to say the University not only agreed to accept, but in several cases brought upon itself. The effect of this situation is that petry agitations of the colleges are transferred to the University and what could be a handicap for one of flege becomes a hardicap of the whole university. This circumstance has seriously limited the growth and development of university departments as centres of excellence

- 421 The Committee has recommended that there should be an Administrative Council to deal with matters relating to the colleges. The Council would be presided over by full-time Chairman who may be appointed by the Visitor on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor and who should be the chief administrative and academic head for mitters relating to undergraduate education.
- 4 22 The Committee is of the view that it is not a sound academic principle to hold lectures and tutorials at postgraduate level in different places without coordination between the two It has, therefore, recommended that (a) the entire postgraduate education, except in the faculties of Medicine and Technology, and the Departments of Home Science, Nursing and Pharmacy should be the responsibility of the concerned University Department, (b) Participation of college teachers in postgraduate teaching (both lectures and tutorials) be encourated, and (c) the responsibility of undergraduate education including honours courses should be that of colleges
- 423 In the light of the above, there should be a separate Board of Undergraduate Studies in each

subject, and separate faculties of undergraduate studies, and a Coordination Council may be provided to coordinate the recommendations of the faculties in matters of policy or those effecting more than one faculty

- 4 24 Following further recommendations have been made
 - (1) There should be a Common Council of Management for the colleges sponsored by Delhi Administration
 - (11) As the terms and conditions of service of college appointed teachers are identical to those of university lecturers, the broad approach for constituting the Selection Committee for them in particular for appointment of experts, be the same as suggested for university lecturers
 - (iii) Some posts of Readers be provided for the colleges and recruitment to them should be made on the recommendations of the Selection Committee constituted for appointment of Readers in the University
 - (iv) A provision may be made in the Act of the University for declaring certain colleges as 'autonomous' colleges as recommended by the Equation Commission
- (v) A committee be appointed to review the existing grant-in-aid Rules of Delhi Colleges
- (vi) The admission policy at undergraduate level be reviewed
- (vii) The existing tutorial system for undergraduate classes in colleges should be reviewed
- (viii) The examination for the undergraduate course at the end of the first year should be conducted by the colleges concerned as part of internal assessment
- (ix) Entire undergraduate programme of Delhi University needs immediate review in the light of the guidelines issued by the UGC, and
- (x) Delhi University should immediately revise the qualifications prescribed for making recruitment to the different categories of teachers, as prescribed in the Regulations notified by the UGC

5. Political Parties

- 5! The Committee is of the view that it is neither appropriate nor practicable to lay a code of conduct for Political Parties. It has appealed to them that as in the case of facing external danger to the country they join together, they should unite in projecting the universities which have a key role in building the future of the country.
- 52 It has further pleaded that the well reasoned recommendations made by it accepted, will in itself be an act of restraint on part of the political parties.

[Concluded]

Perspectives on Distance Education

G Ram Reddy*

The concept of 'distance education', though formulated only recently, has caught the attention, if not the imagination, of educational planners all over the world. It seems to be an answer to the tremendous problems faced by countries intent on bringing the benefits of higher education to all those who desire or seek it. It was only in the thirties of the present century that distance teaching was first tried out in Australia to cover students living in remote places. Its techniques have since then been applied to higher education also in Australia and elsewhere in the world

There are certain basic characteristics common to all distance teaching systems which differ in respect of the ways in which its techniques are shaped and used to suit the conditions obtaining in the concerned regions or countries. The fact that an "International Council for Distance Education' has come to be formed with a membership drawn from 50 countries is indicative it its being regarded as an effective alternative or adjunct to conventional council on in meeting the challenges of the changing socio-cultural context.

At a recent International Conference organised by the Open University of Spain (UNED) 19 distance teaching institutions from 15 countries were represented. They included representatives of full-fledged Open Universities established in Canada, Costa Rica, India, Israel Spain, Thailand, the United Kingdom, Venezuela and West Germany and those of conventional universities having distance teaching units situated in Australia, France, Nigeria and the United States.

The principle objective of distance teaching institutions is to widen accessibility to higher education which in conventional universities is restricted to only those who can enrol themselves in them as full-time students. In other words, distance teaching institutions aim at throwing open the portals of higher education to those who for one reason or another can carry on their studies only on a spare-time basis. Moreover, they also provide students with an opportunity of pursuing their studies at their own pace and according to their convenience and that too from wherever they are living or staying during their enrolment.

All the distance teaching institutions have in common the objectives of bringing higher education

within the reach of all those who have had no access to it helping those who wish to improve their educational qualifications without being required to join as full-time students, and helping those who are interested in pursuing advanced studies in the subjects of their interest

The most significant characteristics of distance teaching are that it is an off-campus programme (i.e. the teaching is done not on the campus, but outside it, that it is mainly intended for adult and mature students, that its students are dispersed and not required to assemble at one place for instruction, and that its students are of varying backgrounds and age-groups

Broadly speaking, distance teaching is done by conventional universities and independent open universities. Distance teaching was at first attempted by conventional universities with a view to helping part-time students. This is exemplified by the introduction of correspondence courses by many universities in the world which depend mainly on the print media for tuition. There are however, a number of universities such as the Deakin University of Australia which use the multi-media approach in their off campus programmes. The distance teaching units in so ne universities a e 'strong' while in others they are 'weak' or just 'suffered by the conventional system The establishment of the Open University in the United Kingdom gave distance teaching the necessary impetus as evidenced by the establishment of a number of open universities in various countries of the world

Most of the universities specialising in distance education adopt a multi-media approach. They make available to their students printed lessons specially designed and prepared to meet the needs of adult learners. They supplement them with the lessons that are broadcast over the radio network or telecast through television centres. In addition, they establish 'study centres' in various parts of the State under their jurisdiction to enable their students to have the benefit of fact-to-face contact with tutors who do not lecture to them but clear their doubts and guide them Significantly, the trend is towards the use of audio and visual equipment at the study centres to give further assistance to students. In fact, video cassettes are increasingly used to teach students because of their effectiveness. The 'video' can be operated at will by the student for his lessons instead of waiting to receive them only at certain appointed hours through television which might not suit his convenience. More-

^{*}Vice-Chancellor, Andhra Pradesh Open University, Hyderabad

over, the students can buy a video cassette if he can afford it or watch the video programme at the study centre whenever he likes to do so. This has been the experience of students even in advanced countries where the television stations are very efficient and offer wider coverage.

It is noteworthy that the course material in distance education is prepared not by one individual but by a team of writers which means that it is the result of collective thinking and discussion so necessary to ensure its usefulness

The functioning of the course team or the modus operandi concerning the preparation of the course material varies from university to university. For instance, in some universities, they are prepared by their staff. While in some others it is done on a contract basis by outside specialists. In still some other universities a combination of these two approaches is followed. But the main point is that under this system, the course material or the book is the product of cooperative effort and team, work, and not what is written by an individual under the conventional system. In the process, the teacher concerned profits from his interaction with his colleagues.

It is observed that most distance teaching universities make use of modern mass-media techniques to make the printed material and the study centre more meaningful While the printed material serves as the transcript of a lecture or a lesson taught in the class, the study centre provides for face-to-face contact with the teacher which is the primary means of teaching and learning. It cannot, however, be maximised as in conventional education on account of the increased demand for part-time learning which necessitated the establishment of distance teaching universities But the setting up of study centres is a recognition of the need to provide its students with opportunities to assemble at one place from time to time for group discussions, socialization and also to achieve a sense of belonging or being of a family Considered in this perspective, the summer schools by which the universities set great store should prove welcome Moreover, in places having advanced technology, telephones are used extensively by students to contact their tutors

One of the problems faced by the distance teaching institutions is that of dropouts. It is observed that the dropout rate is higher in distance education than in conventional education for which there are various reasons. The most obvious of

them is that unlike students in conventional education who for the most part are young, having no other responsibility than to pursue their studies on a full-time basis, those of distance teaching institutions have family and other responsibilities which may come in the way of their part-time studies Some of them find it difficult to pursue their courses of study without a regular teacher. Again, the dropout rate is higher in the first few years of a university's existence than in the subsequent years. This may be due to the difficulties that the students face in switching over to a new system of education

Wherever more than one system of education is in force, the question of parity is bound to arise It is, therefore, not surprising that distance education has had to face the problem of parity in respect of value with conventional education. To the conservatives and to traditionalists, distance education would seem inferior to conventional education and spells a second class status But this is not true as is borne out by the discussions at the Conference in Spain where almost every one declared that the quality of teaching is in most of the distance teaching universities, especially those which specialize in it, is very high, if not higher than that obtaining in conventional universities The example of Deakin University shows that some of its courses like the MBA have been a great success and that its off-campus programmes attract students of high academic attainments and calibre In recent years distance teaching institutions have been able to shed the stigma attached to distance education and rise in status and in prestige because of the efforts of Britain's Open University and other full-fledged open universities Indeed, the conference brought out the fact that the demand for distance education is likely to grow in future since it helps people to overcome the constrictions of geography and other barriers in seeking higher education. This effectiveness is beyond question, since it employs communication technology extensively to teach them

Considered in a world-wide perspective, distance education seems to be assured of a bright future because of 'a changing student clientele, 'a disintegrating curriculum', 'increased competition within higher education', 'the technological imperative', and such other developments. There is no doubt that distance teaching has come to stay. The problem as one of the participants at the conference put it, is "how to shape it".

[Courtesy The Indian Express]

Prof. Mukherjee Addresses Convocation of Rani Durgawati Vishwavidyalaya

Excerpts from the Convocation Address delivered by Prof. Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister for Finance at Rani Durgawati Vishwavidvalaya, Jahalpur.

We have witnessed young men and women with hopes and aspirations writ large on their faces, receiving their degrees, medals and prizes. This is the result of their relentless pursuit for excellence which meant discarding all that is mandane and unwotthy of a 'cholar They have carned such enviable positions by hard work and self determination to get to top, for, the place at the top is always vacant for those who strive for excellence and perfection. The pursuit for excellence and perfection is the very spirit of human soul which we should all be proud

"Our Prime Minister has often said being human we fail, we have shortcomings in whatever

our young men and women approach the society not with a view to get what the society can offer them but instead what they can offer to the society to meet its needs. They should provide initiative and direction to the community which it needs in an era of rapid economic growth and fast growing awareness of deniocratic values. This step will open new opportunities for a better future to these young people as well as to those who have, by circumstances been kept out of the cappaign of institutions of higher learning Such a step will increasingly involve them in the process of social charge and national developmental activities or to use the phrase 'transition from one civilization to another

we do We try to do our best, at least some of us strive towards perfection, but we are a long way off from it But what is important in India is that we still have this ideal. And while that ideal that bright light which has come to us from the remote past and which has been brightened by great intellects and souls, such as Swami Vivekananda and renewed again by Mahatma Gandhi and sages all over our country is there and till it is shining India's future will always be bright" It will further be brightened if we could harness the energy of these educated young men and women in the constructive process of India's spiritual and material development

"The first step in this process, may I suggest, ought to be that

This 'transition' could be achieved if the youth of the country are eager to change and enter the new civilization and if they carry relentlessly the process smoothly within the framework of our democratic system

"Transition from one civilization to another as you know, is not a simple thing. It has taken centuries in the past. But, with the unprecedented advancement of science and technology the definition of civilization has found new meaning It is no longer a simple definition which enjoins on our transitional oursties of new civilization, that is to create new values and new social super structures which help grow man into a perfect being with limitless possibilities of fulfilment of his hopes and aspirations The concept of civilization in the

modern world is far from man's aspirations as it has brought the world on the brink of total ex-The so-called highly civilized man of today lives under the spectre of death and destruc-Civilization in the past have provided man with opportunities for all-round development of human personality on the principles of collective self-reliance and mutual cooperation, whereas the civilization of today has substituted collective selfreliance by inter-dependence and mutual cooperation by mutual distrust. The splitting of atom has correspondingly resulted in the splitting of the world to the extent that now it is fully prepared for a nuclear holocaust and tot l'annihilation. There can be no escape from this so long as the world reels under the agony of neo colonial order on the one haid and the overkill capacity of the super powers on the other, with deception in equerading as inter-dependence

The possible solution to this her in establishing a New International Order and in creating a climate of confidence and trust free from fear Our Prime Minister echoed our feelings and expressed our will when she made a surring appeal to the Heads of the Non-digned States at the Seventh Non-aligned Summit in New Delhi Her words appear a real invocation to the ideals of civilization under transition She called upon the leaders of the "Let us proclaim third world ancw our belief that Indepen-Development Disarmament and Peace are indivisible?

"The preservation of peace forms the central aim of India's policy It is in the pursuit of this policy that we have chosen the pith of Non-alignment in any military or like pact or alliance Non alignment does not mean presidety of mind or action, lack of faith or conviction. It does not mean submission to what we consider evil-It is a positive and a dynamic approach to such problems that confront us" These are not my words I have borrowed them from the undying youth leader of India's destiny, Jawaharlal Nehru who, in the

midst of war cries, thought of wielding Peace as a weapon to end all wars, and ever since India is marching ahead with her Peace offensives These offensives have, no doubt, created a new climate for lasting peace in the world, but it has no less made us vulnerable to the attacks of those who with superior technology, wealth reserve and weaponry want to preserve the inequitous neo-colonial order for their gain and perpetuation of their overlordship in the world It is against such attacks that we have to stand as one man thoroughly equipped with the ideal of peace and goodwill at home and abroad

"The University community has a vital role to play in this strategy of peace which is an indivisible part of national development At one time, the aim of University education was only to preserve and disseminate knowledge, that is teaching Later research aspect was also added to teaching and thus for quite many years, Teaching and Research were accepted as the only objects of University education I am afraid, this third dimension has not yet found much favour with traditionalists in the conventional set-up of universities, who wish to preserve the insular character of universities attitude is not in keeping with the present-day world. The universities have to come forward in a big way outside the four walls of a classroom to contribute to social development and change in the most effective manner Similarly, they are expected to organise their research programmes as an integral part of the total Research and Development infra-structural set-up of the country Disjointed or isolated research works by individuals or ad hoc research programmes taken up here and there have little relevance if they do not form a part of overall development plan which aims at welfare, security and growth This is essential, as we have limited resources to meet the enormous challenges of a developing society Priorities and imperatives are to be decided so that university research programmes may

accelerate the economic growth and add to social well-being. In this respect, I would like to remind you about various socioeconomic programmes launched during the plans and call upon you to make an indepth study of the programmes and identify the role of the university in it I am sure you will find the task quite challenging At the same time, you will not fail to realise that the successful implementation of these programmes would mean an emergence of a new social and economic order, a new awakening in the realm of art and culture, an addition of a new dimension to our programme of science and technology and above all, an emergence of New India of tomorrow free from the ills of the day, where she will find, her people the immense opportunities to carry out their pursuits for excellence and perfection to the frontiers yet unknown to human mind

"May I now seek the indulgence of this august assembly and especially of my young scholar friends to make a vow to offer the best to the cause of Peace and Development to save the world from the imminent doom and in turn find for themselves the most rewarding experience of creators of a Brave New World May you have the courage and strength to move on this ardous path with a vision unexcelled by past generations and may you have success at every step and in every sphere you are obliged to usher in

"Here I would like to repeat the dicta given by our ancient sages

सत्य वद । धर्म चर । स्वाध्यायान माप्रमद ।।

"Speak the truth, do your duty and divert not from the pursuit of knowledge but be not proud

अश्मा भव । परशुर्भव । हिरण्मस्तृत भव ।

"Be hard as a stone, sharp as a blade and precious as a diamond

शिवो भू सखा च शूरोऽविता च नुणाम्।

"Be good to all, be friendly to all and be the saviour of the mankind

"At the end, before I take my seat, I wish you to remember these famous lines of Robert Frost which were so dear to Pt Nehru that he affixed them with his pen on the writing pad before he left us. How meaningful are these lines

'Tne woods are lovely,
dark and deep
But, I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep "

Indian Council of Medical Research

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the national apex body responsible for the planning, coordination, implementation and funding of biomedical research in India. The ICMR has currently 18 mission-oriented permanent Research Institutes/Centres of its own, apart from Regional Medical Research Centres and Centres of Advanced Research in selected areas. The Council's priorities in research coincide with national priorities viz communicable diseases e.g. tuberculosis, leprosy malaria, filariasis, virus diseases, fertility control, nutrition (including nutrition education), metabolic disorders, primary health care, occupational and environmental health problems, other major non-communicable diseases like cancer, cardio-vascular diseases, blindness etc. In these areas, the ICMR has set up national collaborative, multicentric projects in various medical colleges and research institutes in India

Dissemination of scientific information in the biomedical field is also an important activity of the ICMR. This is being done through monthly periodicals like the Indian Journal of Medical Research (and its supplements) and the ICMR Bulletin, as well as non-periodicals like Monographs. Technical Reports on important topic and also Proceedings of a few selected seminars/symposia apart from a number of popular publications on Nutrition, Primary health care etc.

REAL EDUCATION

R.B.K. Varma*

"Man when perfected is the best of animals, but, when separated from law and justice, he is the worst of all, since armed injustice is the more dangerous, and he is equipped at birth with arms meant to be used by intelligence and virtue which he may use for the worst ends. Wherefore if he has not virtue, he is the most unholy and the most savage of animals."

— 4ristotle

Everybody, including the educationists, considers any improvement or revolution in education only with a view to enhance its utilitarian value. If there is an input there should be a tangible output worthy enough to serve the material needs of the student This is the prevalent view in the field of Education Only their material needs are taken into account whenever syllabil are framed or whenever any radical change in the structure is contemplated It is quite unfortunate that only very rarely the 'makers' or 'reformers' of educational systems consider the spuitual needs of the students. An educated man is expected to have a well integrated personality and this fact had been stressed by our ancient educationists for whom we have scant respect. In the modern educational system from the nursery level to the higher level, there is a complete lack of spiritual content and that surely is the reason why we hear and worry about drug abuse, indiscipline and other atrocities not only in the institutions of higher learning but also at lower levels The health and wealth of the future generations depend entirely on the spiritual foundation on which they build up their life No generation, whatever be its sophistication can boast of any real progress, if it has no spiritual foundation To achieve this aim we have to strike a perfect balance between the spiritual and material content in all aspects of education at every level from nursery to higher education As Dr Radhakrishnan observed, "Health, wealth, lessure and life itself which science can further are the opportunities for a higher life Our distressed generation is obscurely aware that the present crisis is a spiritual one and what we need is a healing of the discord between the outward resources of power which are assuming frightful proportions and the inward resources of spirit which seem to be steadily declining" To redeem and recreate our civilization we need a recovery of spiritual awareness, a new and transforming contact with the inner springs of life, a sense of value

The seeds of a healthy society are laid in its educational and religious institutions. Only when both these act and interact in harmony, there can be any real progress in society. Whereas education determines

the prosperity, welfare and security of the people, religion plays an important role in controlling the brutish and selfish tendencies of a person and channelling them in the service of humanity. Any satisfactory system of education should aim at a balanced growth of the individual and insist on both knowledge and wisdom. It should not only train the intellect but bring grace into the heart of man To achieve this we have to devise an educational system in which the inculcation of moral and spiritual values are given due place The need of such an infrastructure was found inevitable and essential by Dr Annie Besant, an illustrious English woman and her co-workers who founded the central Hindu College at Varanasi (the present Banaras Hindu University) For this purpose, they prepared printed, published and prescribed three text-books (1) An Advanced Text Book of Sanatana Dharma intended for college students (2) An elementary Text Book of Sanatana Dharma for the use of the higher and middle school classes and (3) Sanatana Dharma catechism for the use of small boys. The popularity of these texts during the first years of its publication can be understood from the simple fact that nearly 1,30,000 copies were sold out during the first years' of its publication We, who live in the last quarter of the 20th century will not be able to comprehend the reason for the great popularity of these books and we will wonder at the interest shown by our predecessors in giving much importance to the education of the minds of students. They further emphasized the importance of the building up of character "a wellbalanced character which will be that of a good man and good citizen." Character is destiny "Our future destiny as a nation depends on our spiritual strength rather than upon our material wealth. The goal of perfection cannot be achieved by the weak not the weak in body, but the weak in spirit. The greatest asset of a nation is the spirit of its people"

In ancient India the educational system was aimed at the building of character, the development of personality and the preservation of the ancient culture of the motherland But the whole system underwent a radical change with the arrival of the English people and this resulted in a complete break with the past and even after thirty six years of Independence we still have to re-discover the roots of our ancient culture Governments have come and gone but a radical change in our education is yet to come So many Commissions submitted their reports but nothing substantial come off it. The Report of the Education Commission, while discussing about the indiscipline among students, listed the real causes of the widespread malady "These include the uncertain future facing the educated young man which

^{*}Professor of English, S R N M. College, Sattur

breeds frustration and irresponsibility, the mechanical and unsatisfactory nature of many curricular programmes, the inadequate facilities for teaching and learning in the large bulk of institutions, the poor student teacher contact, the inefficiency and lack of scholarship on the part of teachers, the absence of imagination and tact combined with firmness on the part of heads of institutions, the teachers politics in some colleges and universities, interference of political parties in the work of student union; the falling standards of discipline among the general citizens and their weakening civic consciousness and integrity which affect the students as well But all the drawbacks listed above are the results of a complete lack of moral and spiritual education among the young, who are the future teachers, administrators and the creators of a progressive society So the inculcation of right type of values among younger generations is of utmost importance

The Education Commission (1955) felt concerned over this problem and said the education system should emphasize at all stages the development of fundamental social, moral and spiritual values The University Education Commission (1948) considered both its philosophical and practical aspects and made certain valuable proposals for reforms However, except in a small number of institutions, they were not implemented. In a multi-religious society like ours it is necessary to provide our students with a correct perspective of the spiritual values embeded in the teachings of different religions. This alone would develop a spirit of tolerance among the young men and women The Education Commission suggested that, 'a syllabus giving well chosen information about each of the major religions should be included as a part of the courses in citizenship or as part of general education to be introduced in schools and colleges upto the first degree It should highlight the fundamental similarities in the great religions of the world and the emphasis they place on the cultivation of certain broadly comparable and moral and spiritual values. It would be a great advantage to have a common course on this subject in all parts of the country and common text books which should be prepared at national level by the competent and suitable exports in each religion" But, sadly enough, no educationist or educational institution in this country consider the recommendation seriously or sincerely. We have yet to realize that moral qualities are of greater value than intellectual accomplishments

However, as we consider ourselves sophisticated and modern men, we have to re-interpret all things in the light of science and more often than not, practicability. Though the best way for inculcating moral and spiritual values is to read and understand our own scriptures, our youngsters may not do it for the simple fact that they feel it outdated! However, the health of a society depends on the mental health of its units, that is individuals. So if the minds of the individuals are educated in the proper way, we can ensure the safety of a healthy generation. There are so many techniques practised by our ancients which could be brought to life again

with profit. Some of these have been re-discovered by wise men of the world and these techniques are currently in use throughout the world Meditation which have become a fashion among the modern men, were the two most important words in our ancient culture. As these have been given new scientific explanations these could be easily accepted by our young men who take nothing for granted Now Yoga and Meditation are being used as the two powerful techniques to gain self-control which is the basis of an integrated personality Since Yoga is intended for all and not for the chosen few, scientific treatment is possible and its principles universally valid and widely appealing to all humanity, can be derived from it Yoga does not build its edifice on blind faith but on the actual experience of its practitioner The practitioner is called upon to cultivate faith only in his own spiritual destiny The whole man is one of the bases of So an opportunity should be given to our youth to experience the fruits of yogic practice by making it obligatory and this can be done only by devising an educational system in which this can be incorporated Then there is meditation and the benefits of meditating are known throughout the Some of the educational institutions in America have already made it as part of academic instruction We should also give a chance to our youngsters to taste the sweet fruits of this practice Beyond all this one should have faith without which existence becomes unbearable. It is our bounden duty to make our youngsters aware of the immense joy that can be derived from the act of faith. If all these are given due importance in the curriculum and if all these are practised with utmost sincerity and seriousness the future of our society is safe. If every individual is able to control himself, the society will become a disciplined one. This could be done by introducing a text-book, the contents of which should include religious teachings, moral teachings, values of life, duties of a citizen, practice of yoga, practice of Meditation, need for self control and above all a concluding chapter should be solely devoted to a discussion about the great 'utility value' of such a training Each student should read the book and practice the teachings in the book with the full conviction that they are sure to benefit from it To enable the both materially and spiritually students to derive full benefit from such a course it is essential that there should be some teachers who should be able to guide the students These teachers should be given a thorough training by specialists in all aspects discussed in the text and they should be made aware of their great responsibility Sufficient care should be taken when the text is prepared and each chapter should be written in a lucid style by specialists in the respective fields Radhakrishnan, the great teacher and philosopher once told, "Respect for the basic values of spirit is the only antidote to the distempers of our society - social, economic and political We must recognize that there is something in man that hungers and thirsts after righteousness"

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Poona Varsity's Seminar for Research Students

One innovation introduced in the University of Poona over the last few years is an annual seminar for research students which was started in 1983. The seminar for research students aims at bringing together the various research scholars from different departments to a common platform where they can discuss their research problems and benefit from each other. The seminar besides helping students to overcome their hesitancy in discussing their problems, was also seen as an essential part of the training of research scholars Such exposure would enable the research scholars to become aware of the norms and constraints of presenting research findings in a seminar forum

Nearly 200 research scholars representing the Faculties of Arts Mental Moral and Social Sciences Science and Commerce registered for the seminar held in 1983

In the light of experience guined in organising the first seminar the second annual seminar held on 13th and 14th January 1984 was organized on a more structured basis. Although the participants this number of year was only 80 the participation by the teachers and various departments was of a greater order and many teachers from the faculties concerned participated as judges and chairmen for the different paper reading sessions at the seminar Aparticipants were required to submit abstracts of their paperfollowed by the full text. At the seminar each participant was given 20 minutes to present his paper which was followed by a question-answer session Each session had two or more judges to look through the full written texts of the papers and evaluate the presentation in terms of the subject matter, organization and presentation and response to question by the research worker

On the basis of the evaluation made by various judges in each

group of subjects, the best paper was declared as a prize winning entry. All participants declared as winners of the competition under each group are entitled to attend professional conference or seminar in their discipline at the cost of the University.

Master of computer application programmes in universities

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha the Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare mentioned that the following Universities have been identified for the introduction of 3-year Master in Computer Application (MCA) programme Jawaharlal Nehru University Delhi University Poona University MS University of Baroda Hyderibad University Madras University Alignth Muslim University Ann University

The Minister further said that University Grants Commission has approved on the bisis of specific proposals received from the Universities, introduction of MCA Courses in Delhi University Poona University and M.S. University of Baroda for 1982-83 and in Hyderabad University and Anna University from 1983-84 The Course has been started by Delhi Hyderabad and Aligarh Muslim Universities The Poona University and MS University of Baroda are to obtain approval of their State Governments The Jawaharlal Nehru University is expected to start the Course after getting the existing computer system replaced

ISM's refresher course in petroleum production engineering

A two-week refresher course in Petroleum Production Engineering was recently organized by the Department of Petroleum Engineering of the Indian School of Mines (ISM) for the Officers of the Oil & Natural Gas Commission In all 23 officers of the level of Executive Engineers & Asstt Executive Engineers from different regions of the ONGC participated in the programme

The course mainly covered Onshore operations with a brief introduction to Offshore operations. Some of the topics like Workover Operations, stimulation, Artificial lift methods and Treatment of Natural Gas received greater emphasis to impart relevance to the present need of the sponsoring organization Lecture sessions on each topic were followed by a discussion to provide opportunities for greater interaction between faculty and the participants as also among the participants themselves

The course faculty included three officers deputed by the ONGC in addition to faculty members of the Department of Petroleum Engineering

There are proposals for organising more courses for senior level executives of ONGC during 1984

ISM has separately been organising since Oct 1982 series of 3-months orientation-cum-induction programmes for freshly recraited AEE(P)'s of ONGC. Five programmes have so far been organised & eight more are on the envil

Gujarat Vidyapith extension lectures on Grundtvig

Prof K E Bugge of Roval Danish Institute of Education of Denmark & Specialist in Philosophy of Education and more particularly on Educational ideas of NFS Grundtvig gave two lectures on 16th and 17th January 1984 on the Evolution of Educational Thought in Western Europe" and Relevance of the educational ideas of NFS Grundtvig --- a pioneer of folk-schools" The lectures were arranged by the Extension Unit of the Education Faculty of the Gujarat Vidyapith Several teacher educators of Teacher Training Institutes of Ahmedabad attended Dr Bugge traced the evolution of educational thought from Greek idea of perfect man to neo-marxian idea of societal man He also said the contribution of Gandhian ideas in this process is very commendable in as much as it distinctively pleads for an integrated man in harmony with his social obligation

The Vice-Chancellor Prof Ramlal Parikh presided and in his concluding remarks stressed the need for indepth study of Philosophical foundations of education This aspect is very weak in our teacher-education programme

A Seminar on Education & Society was also conducted with 20 Principals and teacher-educators of Gujarat participating in it. The seminar felt that teacher education curricula was highly fragmentive and unscientific. It recommended a working group for preparation of model curricula for teacher education in the context of social needs. The Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith agreed to set up, such, a working group

Panjab Varsity's orientation course on eradication of illiteracy

Prof R C Paul Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University proposed introduction of adult education as a part of the education curricula in our university system and stressed the need to reorient education system to meet the needs of development

He said that though a big force of 3.5 million teachers was engaged in impaiting formal education, the universalisation of elementary education had not made much progress. He appealed to the Principals of the colleges to formulate some special programmes for the weaker sections and illiterate women in the localities and areas being adopted by them for eradication of illiteracy

Prof Paul was recently inaugurating a 3-day Conference-cum-Orientation Course on Eradication of Illiteracy at the campus organised by the Centre for Continuing Education and Regional Resource Centre of the University

He stated that 431 centres were being set up by the colleges affiliated to the Panjab University for imparting adult education

Mr ID Sharma former Vice-Chancellor, Jammu University, in his presidential remarks, said that there was an urge amongst the illiterate masses to have better life and the universities should come up to their expectations to fulfil their needs and aspirations. He expressed his happiness that the National Adult Education Programme had started making headway in the north though it was confined earlier to the south and west of India only

Major Jiwan Tewari, Programme Coordinator, Centre for Continuing Education, Panjab University, stressed to build infrastructure of adult education in the colleges on a permanent bisis to impart relevant and diversified education in a systematic and flexible way to the adults to meet their needs

Seminar on rural industrialisation at GRI

Delivering the valedictory address of the day-long Seminar on Rural Industrialisation organised at Gandhigram Rural University on 28121983, Shri A.M. Thomas. Chairman, Khadi and Village Industries Commission pointed out that the basic needs of rural masses were few and simple. Khadi and Village Industries Commission has ensured fulfilment of these basic needs to 35 lakhs of workers who are employed in Khadi and Village.

Industries all over India In future also a sizeable section of the population could be bailed out of poverty through Khadi and Village Industries Contrary to common belief, he asserted, Khadi and Village Industries are the least subsidised economic activity in the country

He wanted Gandhigram Rural University to undertake a study in order to assess the element of direct and indirect subsidies enjoyed by different sectors of economy and by organised industry in particular. In this context he hoped for increasing collaboration between KVIC and GRI in the field of rural industrialisation.

Dr M Aram, Vice-Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural University presided over the villedictory session

Nine papers were presented underlining the relevance of rural industries in the context of rural poverty and the need—for leadership and managerial skill—in rural industries

The Seminar wis inaugurated by Dr. M. Aram, Vice-Chancellor, Gandhigram Rural Umiversity. In his inaugural address. Dr Aram explained the indispensability of rural industrialisation in the context of explosive growth in population. Citing facts and figures on the demographic profile of the country he added, economic development invariably brings about changes in occupational pattern. In the West industrialisation witnessed a steady shitting of labour force from primary sector to secondary sector and eventually tertiary sector Now it is tertiary sector that

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Siles & Publication Officer Association of Indian Universities, AlU House, 16 Kotla Road, New Delhi 110 002 accounts for the largest segment of employment in the developed countries

New research centre for numismatics

The Indian Institute of Research in numismatic studies, an autonomous organisation offering dectoral and post-doctoral research facilities in numismatology and claimed to be first of its kind in Asia, has opened at Anjanneri near Nasik

A Rs 25-lakh venture by the Maheshwari Foundation of Bombay, the institute will offer research programmes for 15 scholars at a time. It has a library of tare books on numismatics and history an exhaustive archive of photographs of coins and proposes to set up a metallurgical laboratory and a coin museum.

of the Polytechnic of London who is connected with the Royal Nun ismatic Society and the International Numismatic Commission said that the potential for the study of coins would be fully utilised with the institute starting its operations

Describing the institute as a landmark, he also said the numismatic students in India during the last one century had shaped well and the expertise available in the country was good

Solar energy lecture at Osmania

Nobel Laureate Sir George Porter Director and Fullerian Professor, the Royal Institution, (London) said the only possible alternative energy for the future is solar energy. He said though nuclear fission was the other alternative energy, he cautioned that uranium and other elements used might not last for more than 40 years from now

Sir George Porter yesterday delivered the first lecture on "Photochemical approaches to Sclar Energy" in the three lecture inaugural series of "Sri Pingle Jaganmohan Reddy Educational Endowment Lecture" organised by Osmania University The Chief Justice of Andhra Pra-

desh High Court, Mr K Madhava Reddy, presided

The Nobel Laureate said the developing countries still depended on wood as fuel but unfortunately not much attention was being paid to raise new forests. The increase in consumption of energy has led to the depletion of oil and gas which were largely depended upon now. He said the world has to depend in future on chemical substances like Hydrogen, Alcohol or ammonia which could store solar energy.

Sir George stressed the importance of photosynthesis as the miraculous reaction with which life began, continued and grew. He said the study of it was vital to understand produce and explore use of solar energy. He said six reactions took place in a billionth (nanosecond) of a second in this reaction which was life sustaining

Mr K Madhava Reddy, introduced the speaker and spoke about the endowment lecture Mr P Jaganmohan Reddy, former Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University and Mr Syed Hashim Ali, Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University were present

Examination House for Bombay University

The University Grants Commission has accepted a proposal of the University of Bombay to bear 50% of expenditure equal to Rs 17 50 lakhs for the construction of an examination house. The total cost of the house is estimated to be Rs 35 lakhs. The Maharashtra Government has agreed to release a grant of Rs 17 50 lakhs for this project.

The Bombay University conducts about 240 examinations covering more than 1,50,000 students writing 3,000 papers

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- 3 Lecturer One each in (i) Zoology (M Sc & Ph D in Aquatic Biology and Fisheries or Entomology) (ii) Mathematics (Preference will be given to persons who have specialization at Ph D level in border areas of Mathematics such as Differential Equations and their Numerical Solutions or Applications of Operations Research or Applications of Integral Equations and Integral Transforms) (iii) Two Lecturers in Statistics

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Full details of this advertisement and prescribed application forms (seven copies) can be had from the University Office. Desirous candidates are requested to send Indian Postal Order of Rs. 5 - alongwith a self-addressed envelope (size 28 cm. x 12 cm.) with postage worth Rs. 2.10 paire.

Seven copies of applications alongwith necessary enclosures attached to each copy of the applications should reach the Registrar Shivaji University Vidyanagar Kolhapur-416 004 on or before 29th February, 1984

HA Patankar I/c REGISTRAR At present, the entire examination wing is located in a few rooms in the Fort Campus. The storage of question papers and the assessed answer papers presently poses severe problems. The proposed Examination House at Kalina Campus of the University is expected to ease the situation.

The proposed examination house will have a covered space of 20,000 sq feet and will be three-storeyed in addition to the ground floor

IFCI creates professorship at Gauhati University

The Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has created a Chair under the Faculty of Commerce of the Gauhati University

The IFCI Professor will be engaged in promoting research in the field of Industrial Finance and Regional Economic Development. He will also be required to guide Ph D research scholars, to conduct seminars and to advance knowledge in his field of specialisation through public research work. He will also deliver an annual public lecture either at this University or at Delhi on the subject of his research.

Baroda Varsity workshop on neurosciences

Dr S D Telang, Biochemistry Department Baroda University Baroda India will conduct a onemonth workshop in Neurosciencesis proposed to be organised by the Biochemistry Department of Baroda University, Baroda from November I 1984 for scientists from India and Southeast Asia working in University Department and Medical Institutions who want to initiate teaching and research in neurobiology COSTED will support the travel of 5 participants from Southeast Asia Those interested in taking part in the workshop may send their curriculum vitae to Dr S D Telang of the Biochemistry Deptt of the University before the end of May, 1984 Selected candidates will be informed in June, 1984

Sandeep Sharma to lead varsities volleyball team

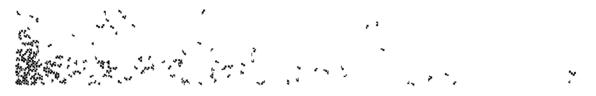
Sandeep Sharma from Kurukshetra University will be leading the first ever Combined Universities Volleyball Team in its maiden participation in the Federation Cup Volleyball Tournament being organised by the Volleyball Federation of India at Calicut from 5th to 12th February, 1984 The other members of the team are (1) Ishwar Singh, Kurukshetra University (2) Satyapal Sharma Kurukshetra University (3) Ray Singh, Kurukshetra University (4) Vijay Sher, Kurukshetra University (5) George Samuel Kerala University (6) Moideen Nina VR, Kerala University (7) Mohammed Nazir, Kerala University (8) Sabu Mathew, Kerala University (9) Igbal KA Kerala University (10) Cyriac Eapen, Kerala University (11) Mukul Acharya, Sukhadia University

Before participation in the Championship, the team will undergo coaching for which a camp has been organised

Examination reform unit for Anna University

The University Grants Commission has sanctioned the establishment of an Examination Reform Unit in Anna University. The assistance of the commission for this scheme will be for a period of 3 years after which the position will be reviewed by the Commission in the light of the impact of the scheme.

The primary objective of the scheme is to study the Examination system in Engineering Technological courses and suggest measures for improved methods



New wheat varieties for Punjab

The State Variety Approval Committee which met at the Punjab Agricultural University under the chairmanship of Mr Sukhiit Singh Sandhu Director of Agriculture Punjab recently has approved the release of two new varieties of bread wheat for general cultivation in Punjab

Wheat HD 2329 is a double-dwarf bread wheat variety It has red glumes with fully-beareded ears. Its grains are bold amber in colour, and hard in texture. This variety can cook into good chapatis. It has been recommended for timely sowing in the entire state except the submountainous districts of Ropar, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur.

The other variety wheat PBW-54 is also a double dwarf variety of bread wheat It has long and fully-owned ears with white glumes It has narrow thin leaves and long peduncle. Its grains are bold, hard and amber in

colour and can cocl into very good chapatis. This variety has been recommended for late-sown conditions in the entire state and for timely-sown conditions of the three sub-mountainous districts of Ropar Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur

Indian scientists to participate in Australian crop study

Two agricultural scientists from India will join in Australian research into ways of improving the yields of sorghum, a plant used in many parts of the world for stock feed. The two, Dr T J Rego of the International, Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics at Hyderabad, and Dr IC Katyal of the All India Coordinated Micronutrient Progran me Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana, will undertake some of their research in Australia

They will join two Australian scientists, Professor Colin Asher

and Associate Professor David Edwards of the University of Queensland's Department of Agriculture, who will lead the research and Dr R B Clark, of the University of Nebraska, United States

The research will be conducted with a grant of \$ 224,955 (Rs 2,103,329) from the Aus-

tralian Centre for International Agricultural Research an Australian Government body established to find ways of increasing Third World agricultural production, as part of Australia's aid programme

The scientists will study disorders of grain sorghum over a period of two to three years

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UGC teacher fellowships for SC & ST college teachers

The University Grants Commission has invited applications from College teachers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the award of 50 teacher fellowships for doing M Phil and Ph D in Science and Humanities including Social Sciences for the year 1984-85. These fellowships are of two

types 30 fellowships relof shortterm durition relone year for M. Philocourse and 20 fellowships are of long-term durition, relog years extendable by one more year for Ph.D. scudies

Under this scheme the selected teachers will be entitled to living out expenses. However at the rate of Rs. 500 - pm. provided, the place of their re-

search is 40 Km away from the place of duty A contingency grant of Rs 1 500/- per annum for M Phil and Rs 3000/per annum for Ph D studies is also admissible. The salary of the substitute lecturer for the duration of teacher fellowship will be paid by the UGC Only those college teachers who are permanent and are below the age of 45 years (50 years in the case of ledy lecturers) with atleast a second class Muster's degree are eligible to apply for these fellowships Professional Colleges offering courses of Medicine Agriculture and Engineering etc are not covered under this Scheme

The last date for the receipt of applications in the presented form by the Secretary University Grants Commission is **Lebruary 29, 1984**

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AIU Participates in Sixth World Book Fair

The Association of Indian Universities is displaying its own and tho e of 18 member-universities publications at the Sixth New Delbit World Book Fair organised by he National Book Trust, India from February 4-14, 1984 The External Affairs Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao who inaugurated the Book Fair also visited the AIU still and showed keen interest in publications of universities and the AIU. The porticipating universities are

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 Proceedings of the National Seminar, 1982. Delhi, Indian Adult
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- 3 Lady Medical Officer (likely to be created) One

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4 Physical Training Superintendent. Onc

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Oughfications

- (a) High 2nd class Master's degree in Physical Education, with either (i) diploma in Sports Coaching from a recognised institution of (ii) a record of having represented his University at the inter-university level or a state in the national championship
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- (b) Three years experience in dealing with educational and related statistics
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